



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 7 December 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
7 DECEMBER 1966

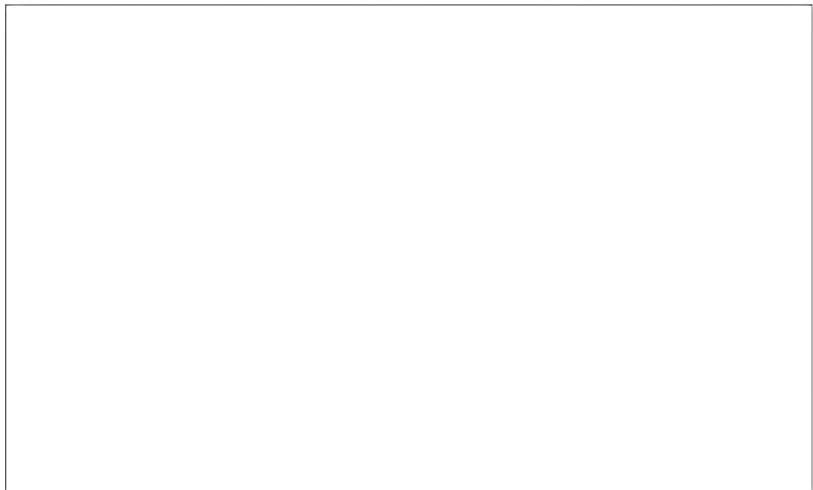
1. South Vietnam

The Viet Cong chose their target well if, as seems likely, they were responsible for the assassination of Deputy Tran Van Van this morning. Van was a very militant southerner and a thorn in the side of the regime.

Had not one of the assassins been caught and his confession quickly publicized, the killing would almost surely have been laid at Ky's door by many of Van's friends and resulted in a new upsurge in tension between southerners and northerners. It still may.

This is one more indication that the Viet Cong is well attuned to political bickering in Saigon.

2. North Vietnam



3. Communist China

We see continuing evidence of preparations for China's fifth nuclear test. We believe it could come any day now but have nothing yet to pin the time down precisely.

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4. Soviet Union

The Russians are making major improvements in their air defense system along the Chinese border. [REDACTED]

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5. Iran

The Iranians, with Soviet help, have found some promising oil real estate offshore in the Caspian. [REDACTED]

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Iran in the past has been reluctant to allow the Soviets any real leverage in their oil production, but recently the Shah has been after larger oil revenues and greater trade with the Eastern bloc. The Shah has previously said that the Soviets have offered to buy his oil at a price at least equal to that paid by the Western consortium.

Moscow's trade minister is due in Tehran shortly.

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6. Jordan

The Arab Defense Council met in Cairo this morning amid continuing attacks against King Husayn by Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Syrian chief of state even made a public statement today that "our weapons are available to those Jordanian rebels who want them." On Monday the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization stated that his organization had "reached a joint struggle agreement" with Syria.

The Cairo meeting has ostensibly been called to discuss Jordanian defense policy against Israel. The real issue, however, is whether Jordan will let its Arab neighbors come in to "aid" in strengthening border defenses against Israel. Such a move would cause political turmoil in west Jordan and further embroil Jordan with the Israelis.

As it now stands, the meeting is almost certain to make Jordan's split with Syria and Egypt even deeper.

7. Yugoslavia

In an altogether unprecedented development for a Communist country, the government of Slovenia--one of the provinces of Yugoslavia--resigned today. The issue was the state assembly's refusal to adopt a health insurance bill. This is the most dramatic example so far of the Yugoslavs moving away from the classical Communist way of doing business.

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